

Expanded Natural Resource Interim Committee
North Idaho Working Group
Meeting Notes from July 22, 2004 Meeting
Orofino, Idaho

Working Group Members in attendance:

Rep. Meyer, Chairman
Sen. Schroeder
Sen. Compton
Sen. Keough
Sen. Stegner
Sen. Brandt
Rep. Cuddy

Working Group members absent:

Rep. Eskridge

Meeting Notes

Hal Anderson, IDWR Technical Bureau Administrator, presented an overview and explanation of the Snake River Water Agreement and explained the Term Sheet. The Term Sheet defines the scope of what will need to be addressed in the settlement. There are three components;

- Nez Perce Component
- Salmon/Clearwater Habitat Management and Restoration Initiative
- Snake river Flow Component

A key part of the agreement is establishing minimum stream flows for specific stream segments. There are over 100 stream segments identified in the agreement. The procedures used by the Idaho Water Resource Board will not be capable of meeting the deadlines for establishing the number and extent of minimum stream flows required; the Legislature will be involved in establishing the flows.

Mr. Anderson explained the details of the categories of streams and how flows will be developed on ungaged streams. The settlement is for a 30-year period. The agreement can be revisited and extended at that time. Mr. Anderson stated the overall effect of the agreement is the certainty on both sides as to potential claims to the water resources of the state. The agreement and handouts provided at the meeting and other information is available on the IDWR web site.

Dave Dorensfeld, Port of Lewiston Manager, discussed the role of the Port of Lewiston District in the economy of Northern Idaho. The mission of the District is job creation and job retention; district boundaries are Nez Perce County. The district focuses on three areas:

- Economic development
- International trade
- Intermodal transportation

Mr. Dorensfeld discussed the issues and lawsuits surrounding dredging and dam breaching. Mr. Dorensfeld explained the dependence the Port of Lewiston with Portland and the importance of recognizing the need for continued cooperation with Oregon and Washington.

Judy Danielson, Northwest Power Planning Council member, discussed the council's activities via telephone. Ms. Danielson discussed the status of subbasin plans and other activities that council is dealing with including:

- Confusion about basin plans being recovery plans
- The mission of older hatcheries may not be aligned with current conditions
- Flow augmentation and spill issues
- Fish passage issues

Dick Wyatt, Water Resource Board Member, discussed water supply issues in the Lewiston Orchard Irrigation District in Lewiston. Mr. Wyatt explained the dual irrigation/drinking water system, impact by Nez Perce tribal claims, and efforts the district has made to address inadequate supplies.

Lin Tominaga discussed a conceptual idea for an aquifer management authority. Mr. Tominaga will be working IDWR and office of the Attorney General in the next few months to develop the concept. He will be prepared by October to discuss the idea in more detail.

The working group discussed the eight items identified in the original charge from the Expanded Interim Legislative Natural Resources Committee. The working group agreed to the following plan:

- Next meeting (August) -address Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer Issues; also, Rep. Meyer will contact IDEQ (Jeff Harvey) to discuss water quality issues
- September meeting - address Palouse Aquifer issues; meeting to be held in Moscow
- October meeting - wrap up meeting: conduct facilitated meeting to develop specific recommendations to submit to the committee

Rep. Cuddy suggested that other topics to discuss are interstate commerce and fisheries issues.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 24 in Post Falls.

Handouts:

Anderson: Fact Sheet on Snake River Water Agreement
 Map: Nez Perce Settlement Agreement Priority Streams
 Hydrograph and Charts
 Exceedence Flows explanation

Approved August 20, 2004